

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT:UNHCR PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: GENEVA 9490

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNHCR IS CONSIDERING ISSUING A NEW APPEAL FOR FUNDS AND FURTHER RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND IN LATE SPRING. THE MISSION SHOULD REVIEW THIS MATTER WITH UNHCR ASAP TO DETERMINE IF CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT JUSTIFY AN EARLIER APPEAL. UNHCR'S APPEALS IN 1975 NEITHER PRODUCED SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN THE WAY OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS NOR DID THEY GENERATE SUFFICIENT NEW RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES. THERE IS, ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST INFORMATION, A SUBSTANTIAL SHORT-FALL IN PLEDGES TO THE OVERALL GOAL OF \$12.4 MILLION. WITH THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES HAVING INCREASED TO MORE THAN 70,000, THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR AN ACCELERATED RE-

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SETTLEMENT EFFORT. A RENEWED APPEAL ISSUED IN LATE SPRING

1976 WOULD NOT PRODUCE PRACTICAL RESULTS MUCH BEFORE EARLY SUMMER. THE NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION IN THIS REGARD IS CLEARLY INDICATED.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MISSION SHOULD URGE THE UNHCR TO RENEW HIS APPEAL AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. SUCH A RENEWAL IS MORE THAN JUSTIFIED BY THE INCREASED

INFLUX OF REFUGEES SINCE THE LAST APPEAL AND ON THE GROUNDS THAT UNHCR OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAS GAINED GREATER INSIGHT INTO THE REAL DIMENSIONS OF TOTAL REQUIREMENT. THE UNHCR MAY EVEN CONSIDER IT TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE TO CON- VENE A ONE DAY MEETING OF HIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AN UP-DATED REPORT ON THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN THAILAND AND TO LAUNCH HIS NEW APPEAL. THE UNHCR HAS USED THIS DEVICE TO GOOD ADVANTAGE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING UNHCR REACTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL.

4. FYI: WE SHALL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT ANY SUCH NEW UNHCR APPEAL THROUGH OUR BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH AT LEAST A SELECTED NUMBER OF THE GOVERNMENTS APPROACHED. KISSINGER

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